

Review of Hog Cholera (Classical Swine Fever) status in Sonora, Mexico

Industry structure- The swine industry is made up of approximately 174 producers who are well organized and appear to be committed to the production of genetically superior high health status swine. These producers own in the vicinity of 136,000 sows. This group own and operate their own slaughter facilities which are under government (TIF) inspection. The group also provide quality diagnostic laboratories. The swine farms are located primarily in the central and southern regions of Sonora but are still widely dispersed when compared to swine dense areas of the United States. There are no other small swine producers in Sonora as exist in the other States of Mexico. The organized swine producers provided a buyout program for these small producers. I saw no evidence of any swine production in Sonora except on the well managed facilities. If this control is maintained, it significantly increases the opportunity to produce only high health status hog cholera free swine in Sonora.

Swine Identification - Mexico does not have a national swine identification program. However, Sonora can easily identify their swine because there are so few owners and all hogs are moved directly from farm to slaughter. Each owner's swine are penned as a group and tattooed with the pen number. This number and herd identification are then maintained through out the slaughtering process. I witnessed this process being done at a TIF slaughter plant. It is easy to do and works very well in Sonora. I did not see sows or boars being slaughtered, but the director of the pork producers union told me that all sows and boars have an individual farm identification number for production record keeping. It would be easy to add a premise ID to this tag and use it to identify blood samples collected at slaughter. The sows and boars are slaughtered at the municipal plants.

Surveillance - Sonora swine industry has a program to eradicate pseudorabies (Aujeszky's Disease) at this time. All swine herds are being sampled on the farm. Serum from these samples is also being tested for hog cholera. This surveillance provides adequate opportunity to detect hog cholera if it were present. Monitoring can continue by collecting blood from sows and boars at slaughter, if and when on farm testing ceases. Visual examination for the detection of diseased swine at the slaughter plant is being done by a veterinarian.

Laboratory support is furnished by swine producers themselves. More complicated tests and virus isolation are completed at a federal laboratory in Mexico City. Tissues and serological samples are prepared in the local laboratories and shipped overnight to the federal laboratory. These producer supported laboratories are very adequate for necropsies, bacteriological culturing, most serology, and some histopath. The immuno-

peroxidase test is done on serum samples submitted to Mexico City for hog cholera detection. A European ELISA test is used as a follow-up test to any positive samples.

To summarize, I feel that the Sonora swine industry is unique in that it is controlled by a well organized, relatively small number of producers (174) that are widely dispersed and very committed to maintaining a high health status in their herds. In addition, Sonora has a well organized regulatory work force that is well trained in disease eradication and the maintenance of freedom from disease.